LEARNERS AND LEADERS
Montana State University

PROFESSORSHIPS AND CHAIRS:
ADVANCE PROFESSORSHIP FOR WOMEN

RAISING THE VISIBILITY OF WOMEN IN SCIENCE
Contributions towards the establishment of $1 million endowed professorship for Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM), and in the Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS) will advance Montana State University’s research capacity. These enduring financial resources, paired with University support, will enable the recruitment of a preeminent woman scholar.

Montana State University is Montana’s leading research institution. Attracting and retaining renowned scholars who are passionate about advancing meaningful research is critical to fulfilling our role as a Carnegie classified institution with “very high research activity.” It is also vital for MSU to build upon its Carnegie designation as an “engaged university” with faculty who are equally passionate about preparing and mentoring students for a lifetime of success.

While raising the scope and visibility of the University’s research, this endowed professorship will also raise the visibility of women in STEM/SBS by garnering national and international recognition for female faculty and student accomplishments. Such visibility sends a cultural message of recognition and honor that contributes to the recruitment and retention of undergraduate, graduate, and faculty women in STEM/SBS, strengthening MSU’s academic standing. The distinguished professor who fills this important role will also participate with the President’s Commission on the Status of University Women.

TRANSFORMING OUR UNIVERSITY
MSU is committed to fostering support systems for women faculty in the STEM/SBS disciplines. This initiative to establish an endowed professorship is an important part of a larger institutional effort to help women overcome the hurdles they face in advancing their academic careers in fields where most positions have been traditionally held by men, STEM/SBS. With support from a National Science Foundation ADVANCE grant, MSU seeks to transform campus culture by establishing mentoring networks, policy frameworks, and flexible solutions for improved work-life integration that facilitate women engaging in interdisciplinary research.

The high-caliber researcher and educator who is selected to fill this professorship will serve as a role model and mentor to other faculty and act as a conduit for connecting students with distinguished and visiting women professors on campus. She will teach sophomore/junior level courses devoted to scholarly discussion on gender, equity, diversity, leadership, and interdisciplinary connections in STEM/SBS. She will also lead critical public outreach. Encouraging greater participation of women faculty in the STEM/SBS fields gives female students easy access to mentors who can encourage them to further their studies and pursue careers in fields where they can play a significant role.

Draft 4/4/2014
REACHING OUR GOALS

Guided by an ambitious Strategic Plan, Montana State University seeks to recruit and retain faculty of national and international prominence and recognize and reward our current teachers and scholars for their groundbreaking work. With the best interest of our students in mind, the Montana State University Alumni Foundation will seek to ensure that Montana State University’s faculty are compensated at appropriate levels and have the needed program funding to advance their research and scholarship.

The Endowed Professorship for Women in STEM/SBS will successfully advance the University’s strategic goals, enabling:

• MSU to recruit and retain more nationally and internationally recognized faculty;
• Increasing numbers of STEM/SBS students to have curricular experiences that integrate learning, discovery, and engagement;
• More undergraduate and graduate degrees to be awarded in science, technology, engineering, math-related, social and behavioral sciences;
• More STEM/SBS graduate students to present their research findings at national symposiums;
• STEM/SBS undergraduates and graduates to publish more articles in high-profile academic outlets;
• MSU to receive more awards and positioning our students to place in national and international science competitions.

MSU: A PUBLIC UNIVERSITY LEADING THE WAY

Montana State University was founded on a visionary idea—that access to higher education for students of all backgrounds is critical to the social and economic development of our state, our nation, and our world, and that scholarship and research matter greatly in everyday life.

Today, thanks to the work of many minds and hands across the generations, MSU stands tall by each of these measures. In recent years our faculty members, the lifeblood of MSU, have led us into the nation’s top tier of research institutions with discoveries and the application of new insights to critical issues. We serve our students and maintain our vibrant intellectual community only as we continue to attract and retain our teacher-scholars in order to sustain our prominence in research.

With the establishment of endowed professorships and chairs, we confirm our commitment to our research priorities and create advanced programming that benefits our students and the communities we serve.

DEFINITIONS

An Endowment gift is a contribution made with donor-imposed stipulation that the principal be invested permanently. A portion of the investment income is used for purposes specified by the donor.

An Endowed Professorship represents funds available to the University for the purpose of augmenting compensation provided to an individual serving the University in a position of distinction; up to 40% of total compensation paid to an individual by the University may be derived from the professorship.